

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 161130Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6991

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4207

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, RO

SUBJ: CEAUSESCU VISIT

1. WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT DUSKO DODER, BASED IN BELGRADE, HAS BEEN ON SCENT OF STORY ABOUT "BUYING OUT" OF WOULD-BE ROMANIAN IMMIGRANTS AND CLAIMS TO HAVE ACTUALLY WITNESSED A TRANSACTION INVOLVING TRANSFER OF \$6,000 TO GOR OFFICIALS. HE CLAIMS TO KNOW OF NUMBER OF OTHER CASES SHOWING CLEAR PATTERN OF NATIONAL POLICY RATHER THAN ISOLATED BRIBERY.

2. WHILE DENYING KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH PRACTICES, I HAVE TRIED TO IMPRESS ON DODER THAT SUCH A STORY WOULD NOT ONLY BE HARMFUL TO CEAUSESCU STATE VISIT (AN ASPECT THAT WOULD IMPRESS NEITHER HIM NOR HIS PAPER ACCORDING TO HIS OWN STATEMENTS), BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY COULD DAMAGE LIVES OF MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE--PARTICULARLY IF HIS STORY SHOULD IN FACT BE CORRECT. DODER SAYS HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT LATTER MORAL ASPECT AND IS WEIGHING IT AGAINST HIS PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION AS A REPORTER. HE WILL DECIDE ON RETURN FLIGHT TO BELGRADE WHETHER TO KILL STORY OR NOT.

3. DODER ALSO HAS SHOWN INTEREST IN CEAUSESCU VISIT TO US AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DO STORY ON THIS SUBJECT. SINCE GOR OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD HIM THAT INVITATION CAME FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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US SIDE, DODER HAS JUMPED TO CONCLUSION THAT VISIT MAY BE POLITICAL PLAY BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO SHORE UP HIS DOMESTIC STANDING. I TOLD DODER I HAD NO IDEA OF PRECISELY HOW INVITATION WAS EXTENDED BUT NOTED THAT THERE WAS

STANDING US INVITATION TO CEAUSESCU FOR RETURN STATE VISIT
FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S 1969 STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA AND
THAT INVITATION FOR STATE VISIT IS ALWAYS CONSIDERED TO BE
EXTENDED BY RECEIVING SIDE WHATEVER THE PRECISE CIRCUMSTANCES
OF WHO WANTED WHAT TIMING. THEREFORE, ANY STATEMENTS BY
GOR OFFICIALS THAT INVITATION CAME FROM US SIDE WOULD
TECHNICALLY BE CORRECT IN ANY EVENT SO THAT DODER'S AUTOMATIC
ASSUMPTION NOT WARRANTED ON BASIS OF EVIDENCE HE HAD AT
HAND. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER DODER WAS AFFECTED BY THIS
LOGIC BUT PROBABLE BIAS TOWARD PRINTING HIS ASSUMPTIONS
MAY LEAD TO SUCH A STORY.
MARTENS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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